

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 /179 W

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O P 241511Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 903

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 3429

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC, BE, US

SUBJECT: ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS

REF: BRUSSELS 2567; EC BRUSSELS 3403 AND 3405

1. AFTER LEARNING FROM US MISSION TO EC OF THE OUTCOME OF THE MAY 22 MEETING OF THE EC COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, AND AFTER DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR MALMGREN, I PURSUED QUESTION OF BELGIAN POSITION WITH DAVIGNON (FOREIGN MINISTRY POL DIR GEN) ON MAY 23. I

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TOLD DAVIGNON THAT BOTH IN BRUSSELS AND AT HIGH LEVELS

AT WASHINGTON, THERE WAS GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT AND SURPRISE THAT THE BELGIAN POSITION DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE CHANGED, EVEN AFTER EXTRAORDINARY U.S. EFFORTS AND SUCCESS IN OBTAINING ASSURANCES OF THE TYPE HE HAD REQUESTED. DAVIGNON REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT HAD TIME BEFORE THE PERMREPS MEETING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE PEOPLE HE NEEDED TO SEE IN BELGIUM. HE HAD NOT CONSIDERED THAT THE BELGIAN POSITION ON MAY 22 WOULD BE CRITICAL, BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT THE SESSION WOULD NOT BE DEFINITIVE FOR OTHER REASONS.

2. DAVIGNON SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING THE MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ON MAY 24 AND WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH ME THEREAFTER. I RE-EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF OBTAINING AN AGREEMENT ON THE CURRENT PACKAGE AT NEXT WEEK'S PERMREP MEETING, AND THE DANGER OF LEAVING THE ISSUE OPEN UNTIL THE COUNCIL OF MINISTER'S SESSION ON JUNE 4. DAVIGNON AGREED THAT IT WAS DESIRABLE TO HAVE THE MATTER SETTLED NEXT WEEK AND NOT LEFT OPEN FOR DEBATE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

3. COMMENT: DAVIGNON'S EXPLANATION IS PLAUSIBLE IN THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE CLEAR THAT OTHERS IN GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY, ESPECIALLY THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY, WOULD HAVE TO BE REASSURED CONCERNING POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THE TARIFF REDUCTIONS ON PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE BELGIAN FIRMS. THE TIME AVAILABLE TO HIM AFTER RECEIVING THE VARIOUS ASSURANCES AND BEFORE THE PERMREPS MEETING OF MAY 22 WAS SHORT BY EUROPEAN STANDARDS. THE EMBASSY WILL REITERATE TO THE GOB THE IMPORTANCE OF A SHIFT IN THE BELGIAN POSITION IN INFLUENCING THE ITALIANS.
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